

Action Item

*California Postsecondary Education Commission*

Approval of the Minutes of the August 21, 2000, Meeting

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# MINUTES

## *California Postsecondary Education Commission*

### Meeting of August 21, 2000

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**Commissioners  
present** Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr., *Chair*  
Alan S. Arkatov, *Vice Chair*  
Carol Chandler  
Robert Hanff  
Lance Izumi  
Kyo “Paul” Jhin  
Monica Lozano  
Velma Montoya  
Ralph Pesqueira  
Evonne Seron Schulze  
Kyhl Smeby  
Howard Welinsky  
Melinda G. Wilson

**Alternate  
Commissioner  
present** Phillip J. Forhan

**Commissioners  
absent** Andrea L. Rich  
Roger Schrimp

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**Call to order** Chair Rodriguez called the August 21, 2000 meeting of the California Postsecondary Education Commission to order at 9:13 a.m. in Room 202 of the Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento, California.

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**Announcements/  
Welcome** Chair Rodriguez welcomed Evonne Schulze and Robert Hanff, two new appointees to the Commission by Governor Davis. He said Mr. Phillip Forhan was attending in place of Commissioner Schrimp and representing the California Community Colleges. Each new commissioner and Mr. Forhan made brief comments.

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**Call of the roll** Chair Rodriguez asked Judy Harder to call the roll. Excepting Commissioners Schrimp and Rich, all Commissioners were present.

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| <b>Approval of the minutes</b>                    | A motion was made to adopt the minutes of the Commission meeting of June 12, 2000. It was seconded and approved without dissent to adopt the minutes, as amended.   |
| <b>Report of the Executive Director</b>           | <p>Chair Rodriguez called on Executive Director Warren Fox for his report.</p> <p>Director Fox welcomed the new commissioners and introduced several new student assistants working presently with the Commission. Calling upon key staff members for specific details, Director Fox briefed commissioners on several topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Staff progress on the study of part-time community college faculty called for in AB 420 in 1999 (funding for the study has been secured, and a consultant is being sought to do the study).</li> <li>◆ Staff to publish a special report on community college transfer data (staff would also seek the additional funding necessary to better monitor student transfers).</li> <li>◆ Continuing staff-work in assessing California higher education enrollment demand (staff would return with a report on enrollment demand in light of regional factors and issues).</li> </ul> <p>Several commissioners commented on aspects of these issues or sought clarification on specific points. It was noted that the State Auditor had completed a recent report on some aspects of community college part-time faculty employment, but that the issues and the scope of the Commission study are more comprehensive.</p> <p>There was also a general discussion about the collection of student data and the current ability, or inability, of the Commission to track individual student progress. Director Fox said staff is preparing to initiate the new student information system called for in AB 1570. On the issue of community college transfers, Chair Rodriguez and Commissioner Pesqueira both voiced support for hearing from appropriate faculty in the future.</p> <p>Director Fox reminded the commissioners that the October meeting would be held in Fresno.</p> |
| <b>Report of the Statutory Advisory Committee</b> | <p>Chair Rodriguez called for the Statutory Advisory Committee report.</p> <p>Committee Chair Christopher Cabaldon asked Vice Chair Judith Ellis to give the Statutory report for August. She said the discussion had centered on the items included in the August Commission meeting agenda -- most particularly the AB 420 study -- and that the systems had reported on their respective activities. These included the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The California Department of Education, under SB 1689, has \$16.5 million to expand Advanced Placement courses.</li> <li>◆ The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities President Jonathan Brown will give a presentation on college accreditation at the Vatican Jubilee.</li> <li>◆ The California Community Colleges is working on its budget change proposals.</li> </ul>  |

- ♦ The University of California Regents has announced support of the Smaller Classes, Safer Schools, and Financial Accountability Act that will be on the November ballot.

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| <b>Recess</b> | Chair Rodriguez recessed the meeting at 9:57 a.m. in order to convene the Fiscal Policy and Analysis Committee. |
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| <b>Reconvene/Recess</b> | Chair Rodriguez reconvened the Commission meeting at 10:58 a.m. He asked Commissioner Chandler to convene the Educational Policy and Programs Committee. |
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| <b>Reconvene</b> | Chair Rodriguez reconvened the meeting at 11:15 a.m. He noted that Diana Fuentes-Michel, the Governor's Assistant Secretary of Education for Higher Education, and Sonia Hernandez, a Deputy Superintendent of Education, were present. He said the next item was guest speaker Ted Sanders. |
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| <b>Presentation by<br/>Ted Sanders,<br/>President of the<br/>Education<br/>Commission<br/>of the States</b> | <p>Director Fox introduced Ted Sanders, the new President of the Education Commission of the States. He reviewed Mr. Sanders' vita and noted that, among many other education administrative positions, he had been both Deputy and U.S. Secretary of Education. Director Fox said he had worked closely with Mr. Sanders in the state of Nevada. He said Mr. Sanders is one of the preeminent educators in the United States. Dr. Fox welcomed him in addressing the Commission.</p> <p>Mr. Sanders thanked the Commission for an opportunity to speak and acknowledged his past working relationship with Director Fox. Mr. Sanders explained the mission of his organization to bring together leaders from various states to develop better public policy for education. He reviewed the history of change in education in the United States over the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the shift in emphasis towards increased requirements for more formal education, including significant expansion of American colleges and universities. He said these mirrored changes in the economy and a shift away from agriculture towards manufacturing. At the outset of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, he said, circumstances are changed again and new there are new challenges for education and society-at-large.</p> <p>Mr. Sanders reviewed some of the important policy issues that the Education Commission of the States would likely address. These include teacher quality (citing the work of Bill Sanders and the Tennessee Star Project), education leadership, standards assessment and accountability systems, and shared governance.</p> <p>Commissioners and Mr. Sanders engaged in a dialogue about education and issues specific to California. These included alternatives to traditional teacher training, the utility of the California Master Plan for Higher Education, and the state's education future. Mr. Sanders commented that California – like New York, Florida and Texas – face very formidable challenges. He said California's decisions and actions would likely influence other states. He cited, as important education issues, the state's capacity for enrollment growth, a need for very early child-care services and education, providing</p> |
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college-level education to students at earlier ages, and the role of distance education technology in higher education and teacher training.

In response to a question from Commissioner Arkatov, Mr. Sanders made a number of comments about the use of technology in higher education. Among them:

- ◆ There are initiatives underway currently that capture the power of an asynchronous exchanges from a distance.
- ◆ Students may soon be able to use the new technology to study under the best minds in the world.
- ◆ The private sector is already providing examples – the initiatives of Michael Miliken and Larry Ellison — of how this can be done using the World Wide Web.
- ◆ Public institutions must employ this type of innovation.

Director Fox and Mr. Sanders discussed the difficulty, given the reality of the budgeting process for public entities, of achieving K-18 cooperation.

Chair Rodriguez thanked Mr. Sanders for his presentation and said he was hopeful that California could serve as a host for some of the innovative ideas that had been discussed.

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| <b>Reconvene</b> | Chair Rodriguez recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:05. |
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| <b>Reconvene/Recess</b> | Chair Rodriguez reconvened the meeting at 1:40 p.m. He congratulated Commissioner Wilson on her appointment as Chief Deputy to the Department of Rehabilitation. He then recessed in order to convene the Governmental Relations Committee. |
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| <b>Reconvene/<br/>Presentation by<br/>Patrick Callan</b> | Chair Rodriguez reconvened the meeting at 2:11 p.m. He introduced speaker Patrick Callan. He said Mr. Callan is a former executive director of the Commission and the current President of the National Center of Public Policy and Higher Education. He said Mr. Callan would discuss, among things, the Policy Center's report, <i>Great Expectations</i> . |
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Director Fox said the Policy Center had conducted both state and national polls on attitudes about higher education and that he looked forward to hearing about the results.

Mr. Callan thanked the Commission for an opportunity to speak about the center's work. He said this work centers on the views, attitudes and perceptions of the public regarding higher education. The actual surveys had been done by the Public Agenda organization of New York. He gave several reasons for the Center's work, saying it is important for education policy makers to know what the public is thinking or believes. He cited some examples of where policy was affected because it had little or no base in public opinion. He said public opinion surveys also could give voice to segments of the public who are otherwise not heard. Opinion surveys can also help identify where a public policy problem exists.

He highlighted results of the Policy Center's surveys, saying that Americans believe that:

- ♦ Education and training beyond high school are necessary to live a middle class life.
- ♦ People who are motivated and qualified should have the opportunity for higher education,
- ♦ Groups that are least-well-represented in higher education have the strongest belief in the value of higher education.
- ♦ Business leaders are very knowledgeable about higher education and its related issues.
- ♦ Higher education affordability is a key issue.
- ♦ Higher education provides necessary skills and knowledge that are needed in life and for employment.
- ♦ Californians believe community colleges can help address problems with under-prepared students; and that Californians have a high level of confidence in community colleges.

Mr. Callan concluded that Americans believe in providing educational opportunity, and that education beyond high school is critical to economic success. He said there is also a belief that higher education provides individuals with skills and knowledge to be better citizens. There is some continuing concern about college costs, and support for providing financial help for needy students.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Arkatov about focus groups to follow up on key issues, Mr. Callan said the qualitative follow-up would center on the disparity of the aspirations of underrepresented groups and their respective enrollment rates.

Commissioner Arkatov asked how California could reduce the apparent gap in expectations about higher education.

Mr. Callan said that, although he does not have a comprehensive answer, it is clear that the public is very aware of the changed economy and the need for a higher education if one is fully participate in that economy. He said the survey findings on the expectations of underrepresented groups' helps to eliminate the myth that members of these groups are uninterested in a higher education. He said responding to these expectations and the reality of growing enrollment demand should be a higher priority. Failure to do so has many negative social as well as economic consequences.

Mr. Callan expressed strong concern that California must develop education policies that are sustainable through bad as well as good economic times. He maintained that, during the last recession in California, Cal Grants were cut while student fees went up.

Director Fox asked about the release date for the Center's so-called Higher Education Report Card for California and other States. He said the Commission might want to invite Mr. Callan back to discuss that report, when available .

Mr. Callan said the Center is developing a measuring stick based on some 30 quantitative indicators in five categories that can help analyze state's there relative progress in

higher education. With a benchmark set by the best state, all states will receive five grades. He said the report, which he said is controversial, would be out near the end of November. He noted that some other countries have pulled ahead of the United States in some aspects of higher education.

Chair Rodriguez thanked Mr. Callan for his presentation and commented on various aspects of the presentation.

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**Report of the Fiscal  
Policy and Analysis  
Committee**

Chair Rodriguez asked for a report of the Fiscal Policy and Analysis Committee. Committee Chair Jhin reported that the committee had voted to adopt the report entitled, *Executive Compensation in California Postsecondary Education*, as recommended by staff. A motion for adoption by full Commission was made and seconded. The motion passed without dissent.

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**Report of the  
Governmental  
Relations Committee**

Chair Rodriguez asked if there was a report of the Governmental Relations Committee. Commissioner Wilson said that no report was necessary as the committee had taken no action.

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**Report of the  
Executive  
Committee**

Chair Rodriguez reported on the closed session of the Executive Committee held on June 12, 2000. He said the committee had met and discussed the process by which the Commission evaluates the executive director, and the process for evaluating the effectiveness of the Commission. He said the Executive Committee, joined by Commissioner Pesqueira, who chairs the Committee on Education Code Section 66905, had met and discussed a new process for 2001. He said that the current process would remain in place for the 2000 evaluation in December.

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**Other business**

Director Fox reminded commissioners and others that the next three meetings would be in cities other than Sacramento.

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**Adjournment**

Having no further business, Chair Rodriguez adjourned the Commission at 3:10 p.m..

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